

**ROCK RIVER WATERSHED GROUP  
MEETING MINUTES  
ROCK RIVER WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT  
MAY 12, 2021**

Greg Cassaro called the Rock River Watershed Group to order at 10:00AM. The meeting was held both via Webex and in the Board Room at the Graceffa Administration Building, 3501 Kishwaukee Street, Rockford, Illinois. Non-voting members attended through Webex, Board members attended in person.

Attendees responded to roll call.

Board members present: Dan Barber, Rockton; Adam Lanning, Rochelle; Anne George, Woodstock; Brent Anderson, Belvidere; Ed Cox, Rockfalls; Josh McNitt, Dixon; Michael Christensen, RRWRD; Greg Cassaro, RRWRD.

Also in attendance was Dave Malone, a Professor of Geology at Illinois State University, and Pat Kelsey of Deuchler Engineering.

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Cassaro opened the floor for discussion of last month's meeting minutes.

Cassaro asked that a motion be made to approve the minutes.

Barber made the motion.

Cox seconded.

Cassaro called for a vote.

All AYES were declared.

Minutes from last month's meeting are approved.

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Cassaro turned the floor over to Barber for the Treasurer's Report. Barber noted he had multiple motions to bring to the floor for the Group to vote on. The first of which being to reimburse RRWRD \$76.69 for the cost incurred to setup the Watershed Group as a non-profit.

Cassaro asked that a motion be made to approve the reimbursement.

Anderson made the motion.

Cox seconded.

Cassaro called for a vote.

All AYES were declared.

Reimbursement to RRWRD is approved.

The second motion on the floor is to refund the \$5000 seed money provided by Freeport now that the agency has pulled its membership from the Watershed Group.

Cassaro asked that a motion be made to approve the reimbursement.

Anderson made the motion.

Christensen seconded.

Cassaro called for a vote.  
All AYES were declared.  
Reimbursement to Freeport is approved.

The final motion on the floor as part of the Treasurer's Report is the refund to the Village of Rockton from their overpayment prior to the Group's decision to restructure the dues.

Cassaro asked that a motion be made to provide Rockton the overpayment difference.

Christensen made the motion.

Anderson seconded.

Cassaro called for a vote.

All AYES were declared.

Reimbursement to Rockton is approved.

The last item of note in the Treasurer's Report is the current balance of the Rock River Watershed Group's funds. As it stands, the balance rests at \$38,817.31.

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Moving on to Old Business, Cassaro reminded the group that all annual dues are to be submitted by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Lanning then introduced Malone to the Group and opened the floor for Malone to share his experience in water sampling. Malone has been at Illinois State University since 1991 and is very familiar with the greater Illinois area and has done significant sampling. As part of the ISU Geology program, students specialize in field work which include geologic mapping, water sampling, or ground sampling. ISU boasts about 85% of geology majors go on to careers in geology. With the dedication of the students and the resources provided by ISU, Malone is confident that they will have the basic infrastructure and student support to be able to help the Watershed Group with their samplings. In exchange, the Group can help provide meaningful geological experience and opportunities for the students to help prepare them for future careers in the field.

The floor was then turned over to Kelsey from Deuchler to provide Malone and the group with some additional information about the sampling process to come and what in particular the Group needs to look for when submitting the data for the NARP. Primary testing goals are water quality sampling (specifically nitrogen and phosphorous), as well as fecal coliform. Kelsey spoke to ISU's participation in the river sampling and testing and noted in order to be authorized for assistance, their lab needs to be NELAP certified in addition to receiving accreditation from the IEPA. Malone responded that he believes the ISU laboratories meets these benchmarks. Kelsey went on to remind the group that the workplan will be established by fall 2021, but the Group can't start sampling until 2022; the exact time frame will begin May 1 and last through October 31.

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Transitioning into New Business, Cassaro opened the floor for discussion on the formulation of a subcommittee that would work directly with the engineering consultants. Barber

responded that a subcommittee would be a good idea and recommends Lanning to be a part of it since he was integral in coordinating between Deuchler and the Watershed Group. Cassaro asked for any other volunteers. Barber, Christensen, George, and McNitt volunteered to join the subcommittee.

Cassaro asked that a motion be made to appoint Lanning, Barber, Christensen, George, and McNitt to the Watershed Group's NARP subcommittee.

Cox made the motion.

Anderson seconded.

Cassaro called for a vote.

All AYES were declared.

The NARP subcommittee is officially formed.

The last item in New Business is the topic of a Group website. Cassaro asked the Group to keep in mind a future website in order to demonstrate our progress to the general public and to the IEPA. More discussion on this will follow at the next month's meeting. Cassaro asked the Group if there were any additional comments before the meeting adjourned, to which no member responded. The next meeting will be scheduled **Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM**. Barber asked the Group how soon the subcommittee should start meeting. Kelsey responded that the consultants should have information to provide the subcommittee within a month, so the committee should plan to meet for that. The subcommittee decided to meet before the regular board meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>; **Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM** was decided as the first meeting date for the subcommittee.

Cassaro asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Barber made the motion.

Cox seconded.

Cassaro called for a vote.

All AYES were declared.

The meeting adjourned at 10:32AM.